which has acquired considerable vested interests in the country, one by the merchants, traders and factory owners, and one by the non-official members of Town Improvement Committees. All adult persons, including women, have a place in the general electorate, the only qualification being the payment of an annual land revenue of not less than Rs. 25 or the possession of an annual income of not less than Rs. 2,000. All graduates of a recognised University, of not less than ten years' standing and having not less than five years' residence in the State, are also qualified to be voters. The three remaining non-official seats have been reserved by the Government for safeguarding the interests of unrepresented minorities. The rights of interpellation and budget discussion have been conferred upon the Council.

14. Central Prison.—The number of prisoners fell from 509 at the close of 1093 to 455 at the close of 1094, the average daily strength of convicted prisoners in 1094 decreasing from 527 to 455. The number of admissions of reconvicted prisoners declined from 192 to 185. That in a year of unprecedented scarcity and high prices there was only so much of serious crime is a matter for genuine satisfaction. The daily average of the sick fell from 6 to 3, and the number of admissions into the hospital from 129 to 102. The revised Jail Rules were brought into force and non-official visitors were appointed as provided for therein.

15. Courts.—In view of the volume of arrears pending in the High Court and in some of the District Courts, sanction has been accorded to the continuance of the temporary Additional Bench in the High Court and the temporary Second Judges' Courts at Nagercoil and Kottayam till the end of 1095. The Additional Munsiff's Court at Tiruvalla was transferred to Changanachery, and a temporary Additional Munsiff's Court was opened at Kottarakara to work up the arrears. Seeing that the six Village Panchayat Courts established in 1092 were turning out good work, the system was extended to the remaining thirteen municipal towns also with effect from the beginning of 1095. A Stationary Second Class Magistrate's Court has been established at Muvattupuzha.

16. Registration.—The compilation of a Manual of Registration, the revision of certain standing orders, and the issue of a code of instructions relating to the inspection work of District Registrars were undertaken by the Director of Registration during 1094. The institution of two departmental examinations was sanctioned by Government to ensure greater efficiency in the work of registration.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

17. Agriculture.—Copies of the report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1094 will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will obtain detailed information regarding the working of the Department during the year. The staff of the Department was strengthened by the appointment of a Mycologist who has already had his training in Europe. He is being deputed for a course of further training to the Imperial Research Institute at Pusa, so that he may be thoroughly equipped for dealing with the diseases of tropical crops. The soil survey of Nanchanad, the most important paddy-growing portion of the State, has been completed, and a bulletin on the subject will be soon published. From the experiments so far conducted at the punja experimental farm at Alleppey, it is seen that liming and thorough ploughing in the hot weather are beneficial to punja lands, and that, by the application of suitable manures, those lands may be made to yield a successful crop every year, instead of only in alternate years as at present. From a calculation recently made by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, he has come to the conclusion that, if Travancore should produce all the paddy required for the consumption of her population, she should increase her local production by 1,64,000 tons per annum, and that if all this increase is to be obtained by the sole process of extension of cultivation, an additional area of 1,64,000 acres of double-crop lands should be brought under the plough. There is no scope for this extensive additional area being made available for cultivation. A conference for the discussion of measures calculated to increase the production of paddy in the State was held under my presidency on the 10th

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September 1919. It was attended by the Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, the Chief Secretary to Government, the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Civil Supplies and the Director of Agriculture. A G. O. has since been issued indicating the lines on which action is proposed to be taken by the Government in pursuance of the resolutions arrived at in that conference, and it will be seen from that G. O. that every possible measure will be devised by the Government to extend the area of food-production in the State. In regard to the question of disafforestation, it will be well to bear in mind that compact areas more than a hundred acres in extent are not available anywhere for being conveniently thrown out for the cultivation of paddy without detriment to forest conservancy, and that in these circumstances all that the Government can do is only to consider each application for the registry of blocks within reserves as it comes up and dispose of it on the merits. The proposals now under consideration to register about 2,000 acres of land outside the reserves in the Devicolam Division at concessional rates, to pursue the investigation of the Adirapalli irrigation scheme, to take early steps for the registry of the *kari* lands near the Tottappalli lock and to throw open further areas from the backwaters for the cultivation of paddy, will, I hope, go an appreciable way towards the solution of the food problem in the State. It is also in contemplation to depute a senior officer of the Public Works Department to undertake a systematic investigation into the conditions of the sources of irrigation in the different parts of the country, with a view to enable the Government to take steady and sustained action in the matter of their restoration and upkeep. Apart from this general scheme, a committee, composed of officials and non-officials, has been appointed to enquire into and report on the improvement of the irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk. Though, by these and other means, it may be possible to make a tangible addition to the area of paddy growth, there is no guarantee that the area will remain as such, and that the more commercially attractive crops such as cocoanut and rubber will not reduce even the available area with increasing rapidity as years advance. The only safe way out of the situation is to resort to intensive cultivation by the adoption of the improved methods demonstrated by the Agricultural Department. In the selection of seeds, application of manure, use of implements, and process of cultivation, the Department has valuable lessons to give and it is for the ryots concerned to profit by those lessons and prove to be of help to themselves and the country by showing that paddy is in no way less remunerative than cocoanut. In the Rules which are being framed under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation, IX of 1094, ample facilities will be afforded for the distribution of cheap credit for agricultural purposes. The Department will also demonstrate the scientific growth of leaf manure in the near future. Dr. Kunjan Pillai looks forward to a time when all the 2,00,000 acres of punja land in the country could be cultivated annually, and if this ideal which is to be so devoutly wished for is capable of even partial realisation, the Department will have just cause to congratulate itself on that achievement. The vernacular quarterly journal published by the Department has been converted into a monthly under the designation of 'The Travancore Economic Journal' and is now the common organ of the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries, Industries and Co-operation. Lands have been placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture for the purpose of opening fresh demonstration farms at Shencottah, Shertallay, Alwaye and Muvattupuzha, and it is in contemplation to extend the operations of the paddy farm at Nagercoil, and to open a fruit farm, a pepper farm, a cattle-breeding farm and a poultry farm in different parts of the country, besides starting an agricultural school at Alwaye. Steady progress has been made in the popularisation of sericulture as a cottage industry. Arrangements have been made for starting prawn culture as an experimental measure at Ayiramtengu near Kayankulam.

18. **Statistics.**—The Assistant Secretary to Government in charge of the Statistical Section in the General and Revenue Secretariat was deputed to Calcutta and Bangalore to study the methods of compilation of agricultural and other statistics. He has returned after training and is now engaged in compiling a volume of useful statistics for Travancore.

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